### Case 2:19-cy-02679-PD Document 1 Filed 06/19/19 Page 1 of 12

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

#### CIVIL COVER SHEET



The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE		DEFENDANTS		
SIMON & SCHUSTER, IN	NC.	***	PACKAGING CON	NSULTANTS ASSOCIAT	TED, INC.
(E) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	f First Listed Plaintiff New York County, (CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  Address, and Telephone Number) Berkon Colao & Silverstein LLP	NY	NOTE: IN LAND CO	of First Listed Defendant  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES OF CONDEMNATION CASES, USE TO FLAND INVOLVED.	•
	e 1200, Philadelphia, PA 19102				
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)			FF DEF  1 □ 1 Incorporated or Pr  of Business In T	
Defendant	74 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizo	en of Another State	2	
			en or Subject of a 💢 reign Country	3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation	06 06
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	ere de re	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of BANKRUPTCY	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY    310 Airplane   365 Personal Injury   Product Liability   367 Health Carc/   Pharmaccutical Slander   348 Asbestos Personal Injury   Product Liability   368 Asbestos Personal Injury   Product Liability   368 Asbestos Personal Injury   Product Liability   369 Motor Vehicle   350 Motor Vehicle   350 Motor Vehicle   350 Motor Vehicle   370 Other Fraud   371 Truth in Lending   385 Property Damage   38	RY	55 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 IIIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES  ☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act ☐ 896 Arbitration ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	noved from   O 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	□ 4 Rein: Reop	ened Anothe (specify)	r District Litigation Transfer	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Negligence resulting in property dar	nage			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	• •	EMAND \$ 1,800,000.00	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(S) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	JN 19 2019
DATE 6/14/19	SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY O	FRECORD E		

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

### 679-PD Document 1 Filed 06/19/19 Page 2 of 12

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

19-CV-2679

#### DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff	DESIGNATION FORM  to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment of the case for the purpose of assignment of the case	enment to the appropriate calendar) 2679
Address of Plaintiff 1230 /	Avenue of the Americas, New York	, New York 10020
Address of Defendant: 7300 N. Crescent	Boulevard, Building #14, Pennsauk	en Township, New Jersey 08110
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:	709 William Leigh Drive, Tullyto	wn, Pennsylvania 19007
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:		
Case Number:	Judge:	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered		
Is this case related to property included in an ear previously terminated action in this court?	rlier numbered suit pending or within one year	Yes No 🗸
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or pending or within one year previously terminate.	grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit d action in this court?	Yes No 🗸
Does this case involve the validity or infringemount numbered case pending or within one year previous.		Yes No 🗾
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpu case filed by the same individual?	s, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	Yes No V
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case this court except as noted above.  DATE: 06/19/2019	is is not related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action in 310087
DATE: OCI 19/2010	Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)
CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only)	The survey of th	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction C	Cases:
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify):	2. Airplane Person 3. Assault, Defame 4. Marine Persona 5. Motor Vehicle I	ation 1 Injury Personal Injury Injury <i>(Please specify):</i> ity Asbestos sity Cases
	ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION	
Joseph I. Fontak	t of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:	for arbitration.)
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53-2, § 3(c) (2 exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of	<ol><li>that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the d f interest and costs:</li></ol>	lamages recoverable in this civil action case
Relief other than monetary damages is sou	ght.	JUN 19 2019
DATE: 06/1 <b>9</b> /2019	Jeph h pric	310087
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by inty only if there h	Aufrney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION

SIMON & SCHUSTER, INC.

ν.		:	<u> S</u>		26	7	
PACKAGING CONSULT ASSOCIATED, INC.	ANTS	:	NO.				
In accordance with the Civil . plaintiff shall complete a Case filing the complaint and serve a side of this form.) In the eved designation, that defendant shall other partito which that defendant believer	Management Tr a copy on all defe- ent that a defendall, with its first a es, a Case Manage	ack Designation adants. (See § lant does not a papearance, subgement Track I	n Form in all civil case 1:03 of the plan set fort gree with the plaintiff mit to the clerk of cou	es at the time  h on the reve  regarding s  ort and serve	e of erse said e on		
SELECT ONE OF THE FOI	LLOWING CAS	SE MANAGEN	IENT TRACKS:				
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases br	(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.						
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( )							
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )							
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( )							
(e) Special Management – Ca commonly referred to as c the court. (See reverse sid management cases.)	omplex and that	need special or	intense management l	ру			
(f) Standard Management – C	ases that do not	fall into any on	e of the other tracks.		(X)	and the second	
6/19/19	JOSEPH I. FON	TAK	SIMON & SCHUST	ER, INC.		f	
Date	Attorney-at-	law	Attorney for				
(215) 755-0455	(215) 405-2999		jfontak@leaderb	erkon.com			
Telephone	FAX Numb	er	E-Mail Addre	SS			

(Civ. 660) 10/02

1400

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SIMON & SCHUSTER, INC.,	^	A 🗇	26
Plaintiff,		Case No	
-against-		COMPLAINT	
PACKAGING CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATED, INC.,  Defendant.		DEMAND FOR_ JURY TRIAL	
	x		

Plaintiff Simon & Schuster, Inc. ("Simon & Schuster"), by and through its attorneys,
Leader Berkon Colao & Silverstein LLP, as and for its Complaint against defendant Packaging
Consultants Associated, Inc. ("Defendant"), alleges as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This is an action to recover losses to Simon & Schuster's personal property as a result of a fire caused by Defendant's negligence in providing maintenance services to a shrink wrap machine. Defendant failed to exercise the reasonable care called for by applicable industry standards or otherwise required under the circumstances. As a result of Defendant's negligence in performing maintenance services on the shrink wrap machine, a fire started at the shrink wrap machine, causing damage to Simon & Schuster's personal property and resulting in monetary and incidental damages to Simon & Schuster in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$1.8 million (excluding any offsets if applicable).

#### **PARTIES**

2. Simon & Schuster is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of New York and has its principal place of business at 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020.

3. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 7300 N. Crescent Boulevard, Building #14, Pennsauken Township, New Jersey 08110.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, based upon diversity of citizenship. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and complete diversity exists between the parties.
- 5. Venue is proper in this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the action occurred in this District.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 6. Simon & Schuster is a publisher of books in printed, digital, and audio formats to a worldwide audience of readers.
- 7. Dahill Packaging, Inc. ("Dahill") was, at all times relevant herein, a packaging and storage provider.
- 8. Simon & Schuster stored inventory, comprised of corrugated materials and finished goods, including books (collectively, the "Simon & Schuster Materials"), at a facility operated by Dahill located at 709 William Leigh Drive, Tullytown, Pennsylvania 19007 (the "Facility"). The Simon & Schuster Materials were stored in the Facility until such time as they were packaged or used for packaging and sent to end customers through instructions or orders submitted to Dahill by Simon & Schuster.
- Defendant is a supplier of packaging materials and equipment, for which
   Defendant also provides installation and maintenance services.

- 10. Defendant was engaged by Dahill to perform maintenance services on equipment in the Facility, specifically, a Galileo-brand shrink wrap machine (the "Shrink Wrap Machine").
- Dahill engaged Defendant to perform maintenance services on the Shrink Wrap Machine on or about September 22, 2017.
- 12. On September 22, 2017, Defendant's employee and/or agent provided maintenance services on the Shrink Wrap Machine. Defendant's employee and/or agent reported that the machine was in need of a new "power control board."
- 13. The next morning, on September 23, 2017, a fire started at the Shrink Wrap Machine (the "Fire"), causing great destruction and damage to the Facility, including to the Simon & Schuster Materials. A true and correct copy of the Tullytown Fire Marshall Report (the "Fire Marshall Report") on the Fire is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.
- 14. According to the Fire Marshall Report, on the day of the Fire, Rich Longhitano, a Dahill employee, entered the Facility at approximately 7:00 a.m. and "[t]urned on the power button for the Galeo [sic] Shrink Wrap Machine," which was "plugged into a 220volt [sic] outlet located nearby on the steel column." See Exh. A.
- 15. After turning on the power to the Shrink Wrap Machine, Mr. Longhitano did not otherwise touch or tamper with the Shrink Wrap Machine. Mr. Longhitano then began his business for the day. *See* Exh. A.
- 16. After "15 to 20 minutes," Mr. Longhitano "went back to the warehouse," where he "saw the [Shrink Wrap] machine was on fire." *See* Exh. A. Upon discovering the Fire, Mr. Longhitano "ran back to check the machine and saw a lot of smoke, at that time the Police showed up and told [him] to get out of the building." *See* Exh. A.

- 17. According to the Fire Marshall Report, "the origin of the fire was around or near the Shrink Wrap [M]achine," based on "the burn patterns in the warehouse" and Mr. Longhitano's statement. See Exh. A.
  - 18. The Fire was caused by the negligent acts and/or omissions of Defendant.
- 19. Specifically, Defendant failed to perform the maintenance services in accordance with applicable codes and industry standards.
- 20. Defendant failed to perform the maintenance services in accordance with the degree of care required under the circumstances.
- 21. Defendant failed to repair the Shrink Wrap Machine in accordance with applicable codes and industry standards.
- 22. Defendant failed to repair the Shrink Wrap Machine in accordance with the degree of care required under the circumstances.
- 23. Defendant violated and/or failed to comply with applicable codes and industry standards.
- 24. Defendant failed to properly hire, train, and supervise competent employees, agents, and/or subcontractors.
- 25. Defendant failed to adequately instruct its employees, agents, and/or subcontractors as to the proper way(s) to perform the tasks for which it was engaged.
- 26. Defendant failed to provide, establish, and/or follow proper and adequate controls so as to ensure the proper performance of its tasks.
- 27. Defendant selected and contracted with individuals and entities that are not properly trained and/or unprepared to properly perform the tasks in conformity with applicable codes and industry standards.

- 28. Defendant selected and contracted with individuals and entities that are not properly trained and/or unprepared to properly perform the tasks in conformity with applicable controls.
  - 29. Defendant otherwise failed to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances.
- 30. As a result of the Fire, Simon & Schuster incurred substantial damage and destruction to its personal property, comprised of the Simon & Schuster Materials stored at Dahill's Facility, as well as incidental damages.

#### **COUNT I**

#### **NEGLIGENCE**

- 31. Simon & Schuster repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 30 as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 32. At all relevant times, Defendant agreed with Dahill to provide maintenance services for the Shrink Wrap Machine at the Facility.
- 33. Defendant had a duty to Simon & Schuster to exercise reasonable care in the performance of maintenance services.
- 34. Defendant failed to exercise reasonable care in the performance of the maintenance work on the Shrink Wrap Machine at the Facility, including, but not limited to:
  - a. causing and/or failing to prevent the Fire;
  - failing to perform the maintenance services in accordance with applicable codes and industry standards;
  - failing to perform the maintenance services in accordance with the degree of care required under the circumstances;

- d. failing to repair the Shrink Wrap Machine in accordance with applicable codes and industry standards;
- e. failing to repair the Shrink Wrap Machine in accordance with the degree of care required under the circumstances;
- f. violating and/or failing to comply with applicable codes and industry standards;
- g. failing to properly hire, train, and supervise competent employees, agents,
   and/or subcontractors;
- h. failing to adequately instruct its employees, agents, and/or subcontractors as to the proper way(s) to perform the tasks for which it was engaged;
- failing to provide, establish, and/or follow proper and adequate controls so as to ensure the proper performance of its tasks;
- selecting and contracting with individuals and entities that are not properly trained and/or unprepared to properly perform the tasks in conformity with applicable codes and industry standards;
- k. selecting and contracting with individuals and entities that are not properly trained and/or unprepared to properly perform the tasks in conformity with applicable controls; and
- 1. otherwise failing to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances.
- 35. Defendant's negligence proximately caused the Fire and resulting damages.
- 36. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Simon & Schuster sustained damage to its personal property in an amount to be determined at trial but not less than \$1.8 million.

37. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Simon & Schuster suffered inconvenience and the loss of use of its property, and the imposition of additional incidental expenses.

WHEREFORE, Simon & Schuster demands judgment in its favor and against Defendant in an amount to be determined at trial but not less than \$1.8 million, plus interest, the costs of this suit, and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b), Simon & Schuster demands a trial by jury on the count and as to all issues.

Dated: June 19, 2019

LEADER BERKON COLAO &

SILVERSTEIN LLP

By:

GLÉN/SILVERSTEIN

(pro hac vice motion to be filed) gsilverstein@leaderberkon.com

JOSEPH I. FONTAK

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New York, New York 10017

P: (212) 486-2400

F: (212) 486-3099

Attorneys for Plaintiff Simon & Schuster, Inc.

# BOROUGH OF TULLYTOWN OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

500 MAIN STREET TULLYTOWN, PA 19007 PHONE 215-945-1560 • FAX 215-945-4522

INCIDENT:

#FD1714004

DATE:

September 23, 2017

LOCATION:

709 William Leigh Dr. Tullytown, Pa. 19007

CALL RECEIVED:

07:10

CALL TYPE:

**Building Fire** 

OWNER INFORMATION:

Building: D.C.J. Inc.

661 River Rd.

Tullytown, Pa. 19007

Business: Dahill Packaging Inc.

P.O. Box 517

Ambler, Pa. 19002-517

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The structure, involved in this fire incident, is a light industrial building; approximately 10 years old. The structure measured approximately 90 feet wide and 90 feet deep and 25 feet high. The construction consisted of masonry walls and a steel deck flat asphalt roof.

Upon inspection of the scene, along the interior perimeter walls, there were several large shelving units stocked with corrugated boxes full of print reading material. Packaging machines and three electric powered lift trucks in the middle of the warehouse area. Several offices are located along the front of the fire building. The fire patterns show the origin of the fire was around or near the Shrink Wrap machine.

#### WITNESS STATEMENT: Rich Longhitano (D.O.B -03/31/45)

On Saturday 9/23/17, at approximately 7:00 am, entered the building from a door located at an adjacent building in 713 William Leigh Drive, turned on the lights in the office area, and then for the warehouse. Turned on the power button for the Galeo Shrink Wrap Machine. This machine was plugged into a 220volt outlet located nearby on the steel column. Then proceed to go to the restroom located near the offices. Then went to the office to get the work orders for the day and picked up the packing stickers for the same order, then went back to the office and started the workorder file. Then went back to the warehouse (15 to 20 minutes later) and saw the machine was on fire and ran back to the office, then ran back to check the machine and saw a lot of smoke, at that time the Police showed up and told me to get out of the building.

**SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT:** On Thursday 9/21/17 Rich stated that the Galeo Shrink Wrap machine would not turn on. Rich did not work on Friday 9/22/17.

Based on the burn patterns in the warehouse area and the witness statement it is this investigator's opinion that this fire started around the area of the Galeo Shrink Wrap Machine. However, it is undetermined as to exactly how this fire started.

#### DAMAGE ESTIMATE:

Building & Contents - Approx. \$ 2,000,000.00

**BUSINESS INSURANCE INFO:** Cincinnati Insurance Company

Policy #EPP 0081863

Photographs of the scene were taken.

Case closed.

Robert C. Upnes

Tullytown Borough Fire Marshal